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General Committee

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to place before the General Committee, for its consideration, the following observations and proposals in connection with the report to be made to the General Assembly by the General Committee regarding the organization of the fifty-sixth regular session and future sessions of the Assembly, the adoption of the agenda and the allocation of items.

2. Over the years, the General Assembly has adopted a number of provisions aimed at rationalizing the procedures and organization of the Assembly. These provisions are reproduced in the annexes to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1 and 2, annexes I, II and IV-VIII).

3. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the provisions contained in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure, in particular to those provisions reproduced below under the relevant headings.

4. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to the following resolutions of the General Assembly, the provisions of which are reflected in the present document under the relevant sections:

(a) Annex I (Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly) to resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly";

(b) The annex to resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations system";

(c) Paragraph 1 of resolution 52/163 of 15 December 1997, entitled "Amendment to rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly".

In this connection, the Committee may wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 48/264 (A/52/856) and resolution 51/241 (A/52/855).

II. Organization of the session

A. General Committee

5. The Secretary-General wishes to draw to the attention of the General Committee rule 40 of the rules of procedure, as well as General Assembly decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI, paras. 1 and 2), Assembly resolutions 39/88 B (ibid., annex VII, para. 4), the annex to resolution 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1, annex VIII, para. 3) and the annex to resolution 51/241 (paras. 17, 18 and 33-35) pertaining to the functions of the Committee.

B. Rationalization of work

6. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, whereby the Assembly decided that the recommendations as agreed upon and as contained in the

report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations[1] should be implemented by the Secretary-General and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations.

7. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to the measures undertaken in pursuance of the goal of renewal and reform, in particular to recommendations 2, 3 and 7 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts,[1] as reflected in the progress reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The Secretary-General also wishes to draw the Committee's attention to Assembly resolution 48/264, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", and annex I thereto and to resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform".

8. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1, annex VIII), which reads as follows:

> "5. The General Committee should consider, at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, recommending that certain Main Committees should meet in sequential order, taking into account such matters as the number of meetings required for the consideration of the questions with which they are charged at that session, the organization of the work of the whole session and the problem of participation of smaller delegations."

In this connection, the Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraphs 30, 31 and 36 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which read as follows:

> "30. All Main Committees shall hold brief organizational sessions once the General Assembly has taken decisions on the agenda, before the commencement of the general debate. Bureaux of the Main Committees shall meet earlier to draw up recommendations on the organization and programme of work.
>
> "31. The Main Committees shall meet in substantive session only after the end of the general debate.
>
> ...
>
> "36. The First Committee and the Fourth Committee shall not meet simultaneously and may consider meeting in a sequential manner during the regular session of the General Assembly. This arrangement shall not apply if it affects their respective identities, programmes of work and effective consideration of their agendas."

9. The Secretary-General also wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 52/163 of 15 December 1997, which reads as follows:

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

"1. *Decides* to amend the first sentence of rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to read: 'Each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur';".

10. Furthermore, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to the fact that measures introduced to reduce costs relating to overtime will be strictly enforced.

C. Opening date of the session

11. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to Assembly resolution 55/14 of 3 November 2000, by which the General Assembly amended rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to read as follows:

"The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday following the second Monday in September."

D. Closing date of the session

12. In accordance with the provisions of rule 2 of its rules of procedure, the General Assembly should fix a closing date for the fifty-sixth session. The General Committee may wish to recommend to the Assembly that the fifty-sixth session recess not later than Tuesday, 11 December 2001 and close on Monday, 9 September 2002. The Committee may also wish to recommend to the Assembly that the First Committee complete its work by Friday, 9 November, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) by Friday, 16 November, the Sixth Committee by Friday, 23 November, the Third Committee by Wednesday, 28 November, and the Second and Fifth Committees by Friday, 7 December.

E. Schedule of meetings

13. The General Committee may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that, in accordance with established practice, morning meetings start promptly at 10 a.m. for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees during the fifty-sixth session. The Committee may also wish to recommend to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, including informal meetings, be adjourned by 6 p.m., and that no meetings be held on weekends. The Committee may also wish to recommend to the Assembly that this cost-saving measure apply also, for the remainder of 2001, to meetings listed on the calendar of conferences and meetings. The Secretary-General wishes to recall that in accordance with the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, the morning plenary meetings of the special session of the General Assembly on children will begin at 9 a.m.

14. The General Committee may further wish to recommend that, in order to preclude the late start of meetings, the General Assembly waive, in view of the practice at recent sessions, the requirement that at least one third of the members of the Assembly in the case of plenary meetings and one quarter of the members of a Main Committee in the case of Main Committee meetings be present in order to

declare a meeting open and to permit the debate to proceed. This recommendation would be made on the understanding that such a waiver would not imply any permanent change in the provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure and that the requirement of the presence of a majority of the members for any decision to be taken would be maintained.

15. Furthermore, the General Committee may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that delegations be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.

F. General debate

16. The general debate will be held from Monday, 24 September, to Friday, 5 October 2001, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the annex to resolution 51/241 (paras. 19 and 20 (a) and (e)), which read as follows:

> "19. There shall continue to be only one general debate each year, beginning in the third week of September.
>
> "20. The preparation of the list of speakers for the general debate shall be based on the following principles:
>
> "(a) The general debate shall be organized over a period of two weeks so as to maximize possibilities for interministerial contacts;
>
> ...
>
> "(e) The list of speakers for each day shall be completed and no speakers will be rolled over to the next day, notwithstanding the implications for hours of work."

17. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 21 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

> "21. There shall be no time limits or specified themes for the general debate but the General Assembly will indicate a voluntary guideline of up to twenty minutes for each statement."

18. The General Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the decision taken by the Assembly at previous sessions strongly discouraging the practice of expressing congratulations inside the General Assembly Hall after a speech has been delivered. In this connection, the Committee may wish to recommend to the Assembly that speakers in the general debate, after delivering their statements, leave the General Assembly Hall through room GA-200, located behind the podium, before returning to their seats.

G. Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements

19. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 6 to 8 of its decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which read as follows:

"6. Explanations of vote should be limited to ten minutes.

"7. When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

"8. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item."

20. The Secretary-General wishes to suggest that, in line with time limits for explanations of vote and the right of reply, the General Committee recommend to the General Assembly that points of order be limited to five minutes.

21. With a view to streamlining the procedures of the General Assembly and as another cost-saving measure, the General Committee, in connection with the length of statements, may wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

"22. Outside the general debate there shall be a fifteen-minute time limit in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees."

In this connection, the Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 51/241 (A/52/855), in particular to paragraph 23, which reads as follows:

"23. *Paragraph 22*. Since in plenary meetings the length of statements in debates other than the general debate averages eight minutes, the General Assembly may wish to review the recommendation contained in paragraph 22."

The Committee may further wish to draw the attention of the Assembly, as it did at recent sessions, to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and to paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees.

H. Records of meetings

22. As at past sessions, during the fifty-sixth session verbatim records will continue to be provided for the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and the meetings of the First Committee, and summary records will be provided to the General Committee and the other Main Committees of the Assembly. In accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.15, annex V, para. 108 (b)), the General Committee may wish to recommend that the Assembly maintain for the fifty-sixth session the practice whereby the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may obtain, on specific request, transcriptions of the debates of some of its meetings or portions thereof. Such transcriptions, which would not be part of the official records of the Committee, would be provided as the required services became available. Furthermore, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution 38/32 E of 25 November 1983, which read as follows:

"8. *Decides* that the practice of reproducing statements in extenso as separate documents shall be discontinued for all its subsidiary organs that are entitled to summary records;

"9. *Decides further* that any exceptions to this rule may be made by the body concerned only if the statements are to serve as bases for discussion and if, after hearing a statement of the relevant financial implications, the body decides that one or more statements in extenso may be included in the summary record, or reproduced as separate documents or as annexes to authorized documents."

In this connection, the General Committee may also wish to recommend to the Assembly that the practice not to reproduce in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the fifty-sixth session.

I. Seating arrangements

23. In accordance with established practice, the Secretary-General has drawn lots for the purpose of choosing the Member State to occupy the first desk on the General Assembly floor from which the alphabetical seating order will begin. The name drawn was Haiti. Consequently, the delegation of that country will sit at the first desk at the right of the President, and the other countries will follow in English alphabetical order. The same order will be observed in the Main Committees.

J. Concluding statements

24. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 17 of its decision 34/401 (ibid., annex VI), which reads as follows:

"17. To save time at the end of the session, the practice of making concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees should be dispensed with except for statements by the presiding officers."

K. Resolutions

25. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401 (ibid.), which reads as follows:

"32. Whenever possible, resolutions requesting the discussion of a question at a subsequent session should not call for the inclusion of a separate new item and such discussion should be held under the item under which the resolution was adopted."

26. The General Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts,[1] which reads as follows:

"(f) Efforts should be made to reduce the number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Resolutions should request reports of the Secretary-General only in cases where that would be indispensable for facilitating the

implementation of these resolutions or the continued examination of the question."

27. In this connection, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264, which reads as follows:

"5. *Encourages* Member States to exercise restraint in making proposals requesting new reports of the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the desirability of reducing the number of such reports."

28. The General Committee may further wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to resolution 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15/Amend.1, annex VIII), which read:

"1. Without prejudice to Article 18 of the Charter of the United Nations and with a view to facilitating the work of the United Nations, including whenever possible, the adoption by the General Assembly of agreed texts of resolutions and decisions, informal consultations should be carried out with the widest possible participation of Member States.

...

"10. Resolutions should request observations from States or reports by the Secretary-General insofar as they are likely to facilitate the implementation of the resolutions or the continued examination of the question."

L. Documentation

29. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which reads as follows:

"28. The General Assembly, including its Main Committees, should merely take note of those reports of the Secretary-General or subsidiary organs which do not require a decision by the Assembly and should neither debate nor adopt resolutions on them, unless specifically requested to do so by the Secretary-General or the organ concerned."

30. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264, which reads as follows:

"6. *Emphasizes* that reports requested of the Secretary-General should be made available in all official languages in a timely manner in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the annexes thereto with a view to enabling delegations to consider the substance of such reports more thoroughly in advance of meetings."

The Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 5 of section C of resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999, in which the Assembly once again requested the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the General Assembly.

31. The General Committee may further wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 32 of resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

> "32. The number of reports requested shall be rationalized where possible so as to permit more focused consideration of issues. All bodies shall exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and should consider integrating, biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports, bearing in mind paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995."

M. Questions related to the programme budget

32. The Secretary-General would like to draw the attention of the General Committee to rule 153 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

> "No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. No resolution in respect of which expenditures are anticipated by the Secretary-General shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations."

In this connection, the General Committee may wish to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 12 of its decision 34/401 (ibid.), which reads as follows:

> "12. It is imperative that Main Committees should allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee and that they should take this requirement into account when they adopt their programme of work."

Furthermore, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, which reads as follows:

> "6. *Decides* that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly shall be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications are being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly."

The General Committee may also wish to draw the Assembly's attention to regulation 5.9 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8; first adopted in resolution 37/234, annex; most recently amended in section III of resolution 53/207), which reads as follows:

> "*Regulation 5.9.* No council, commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account of a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal."

33. The General Committee may also wish to recall paragraph 13 of decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which reads as follows:

> "13. Furthermore:
>
> "(a) A mandatory deadline, not later than 1 December, should be established for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications;
>
> "(b) The Fifth Committee should, as a general practice, consider accepting without debate the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial implications of draft resolutions up to a prescribed limit, namely, $25,000 on any one item;
>
> "(c) Firm deadlines should be set for the early submission of the reports of subsidiary bodies which require consideration by the Fifth Committee;
>
> "(d) A minimum period of forty-eight hours should be allowed between the submission and the voting of a proposal involving expenditure in order to allow the Secretary-General to prepare and present the related statement of administrative and financial implications."

34. In connection with subparagraph 13 (d) of decision 34/401 quoted above, experience has shown that, depending on the type and complexity of the proposals involving changes in the work programme and additional expenditures, the preparation of a statement of programme budget implications by the Secretary-General may take a few days. In addition, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee need adequate time to review the programme budget implications of a draft resolution before it can be acted on by the Assembly.

35. It is thus desirable that Member States submit proposals involving statements of programme budget implications sufficiently in advance to avoid the cancellation of meetings and the postponement of consideration of items.

36. The attention of the Assembly is also drawn to section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 on procedures for administrative and budgetary matters, which states that the Assembly:

> "1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;
>
> "2. *Reaffirms also* the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
>
> "3. *Expresses its concern* at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters;
>
> "4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters."

In its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the Assembly recalled the provisions of the aforementioned resolution.

N. Observances and commemorative meetings

37. Observances and commemorative meetings held in plenary meetings have for the most part followed a well-defined pattern. Considering past practice, the General Committee may wish to recommend that, with the exception of the anniversary of the United Nations, the General Assembly adopt a format for commemorative meetings that includes statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the chairmen of the five regional groups and the representative of the host country. The Committee may also wish to recommend to the Assembly that, according to established practice, each statement be limited to 15 minutes.

38. It is further suggested that observances and commemorative meetings take place, to the extent possible, immediately following the general debate. The advantage of such a procedure is that it may facilitate the participation of dignitaries attending the general debate. This procedure would also allow advance planning of the work of the General Assembly.

O. Special conferences

39. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences,[2] which reads as follows:

> "The Committee, taking into account difficulties encountered in ensuring adequate preparation of meetings, including timely distribution of documentation, as well as the ability of Member States to participate fully, recommends that the General Assembly should instruct the Main Committees to review the number of special conferences of the United Nations already proposed and scheduled in their respective fields of activity prior to deciding upon the scheduling of new and additional special conferences, thus bearing in mind the relevant portions of General Assembly resolution 33/55."

The recommendation was adopted by the Assembly in paragraph (b) of its decision 34/405. The General Committee may also wish to draw the Assembly's attention to recommendation 2 (d) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts,[1] which reads as follows:

"(d) Until 1978, a number of resolutions had requested that only one major conference be scheduled annually. The decision of the General Assembly that no more than five special conferences should take place in a given year and that no more than one special conference should be convened at the same time should be strictly implemented."

40. In this connection, the General Committee may further wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the relevant provisions of recommendation 4 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts,[1] which reads as follows:

> "The existing principle that United Nations bodies should meet at their respective established headquarters, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, should be strictly enforced. Whenever the Assembly accepts an invitation from the Government of a Member State to

[2] Ibid., *Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/34/32).

hold a conference or meeting away from established headquarters, the additional cost should be borne in full by that Government. The methods of budgeting these costs should be improved so as to ensure that all additional costs are accounted for."

P. Meetings of subsidiary organs

41. Pursuant to section 1, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, no subsidiary organ of the Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during the main part of a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to a letter dated 30 August 2001 (A/56/322), in which the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences informed the President of the General Assembly that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that the following subsidiary organs be authorized to meet during the main part of the fifty-sixth session:

(a) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(b) Resumed first session of the Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

(c) Committee on Relations with the Host Country;

(d) Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(e) Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

(f) Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

42. The Secretary-General also wishes to recall that, in light of paragraph 7 of resolution 55/245 B, a resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development shall be held from 15 to 19 October 2001.

III. Adoption of the agenda

43. All proposals for the inclusion of items in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session have been communicated to Member States in the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session (A/56/150);

(b) Supplementary list (A/56/200).

The items proposed for inclusion are listed in the draft agenda, which appears in paragraph 46 below.

44. Bearing in mind the need to rationalize the General Assembly's procedures and in view of the large number of items on the draft agenda, the Secretary-General wishes to recall the recommendation of the Special Committee on the

Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly that Member States examine the agenda with a view to eliminating items that have lost their urgency or relevance, are not ripe for consideration or could be dealt with and even disposed of equally well by subsidiary organs of the Assembly, and with a view also to referring specific items to other United Nations organs or specialized agencies, taking into account the nature of the question (A/520/Rev.15, annex V, paras. 19 and 22; see also ibid., annex VII, paras. 1 and 2). The Secretary-General wishes also to recall paragraphs 4 and 5 (a) and (c) of annex I to resolution 48/264, which read as follows:

> "4. There shall be periodic reviews of the agenda, taking into account the views of concerned Member States, in order to ascertain whether it is possible to delete any item on which no resolution or decision has been adopted for a period of time.
>
> "5. The Main Committees should be encouraged to continue with the review of their respective agendas, taking into account, inter alia, the following:
>
> "(a) Agenda items concerning issues of closely related substance could be merged within a single agenda title or be incorporated as sub-items where this is possible without loss of focus on the items/sub-items concerned;
>
> ...
>
> "(c) Biennialization and triennialization of items on the agenda of the Main Committees could be considered in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

In this connection, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 23 to 26 of the annex to resolution 51/241. In addition, bearing in mind the extremely heavy workload of the Assembly and the need to make the most effective use of scarce resources, the Committee may wish to consider deferring to a later session items for which decisions or action are not required at the present session.

45. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994, whereby the Assembly decided that the granting of observer status in the General Assembly should in future be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly. (See also paragraph 48.)

46. Subject to the recommendations of the General Committee regarding paragraphs 43 and 44 above, the draft agenda of the fifty-sixth session would consist of the following items:[3]

[3] Abbreviations used in the present document:
(P): Item on the provisional agenda (A/56/150);
(S): Item on the supplementary list (A/56/200).

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Finland (P.1).
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (P.2).
3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (P.3):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (P.4).
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (P.5).
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (P.6).
7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (P.7).
8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (P.8).
9. General debate (P.9).
10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (P.10).
11. Report of the Security Council (P.11).
12. Report of the Economic and Social Council (P.12).
13. Report of the International Court of Justice (P.13).
14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (P.14).
15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (P.15):
   (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;
   (b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;
   (c) Election of a member of the International Court of Justice.
16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (P.16):
   (a) Election of the members of the International Law Commission;
   (b) Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
   (c) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;
   (d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.
17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (P.17):
   (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
   (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

(c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

(d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

(e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

(f) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission;

(g) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(h) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

(i) Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (P.18).

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (P.19).

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (P.20):

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

(c) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

(d) Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development;

(e) Assistance to the Palestinian people;

(f) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (P.21).

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (P.22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (P.23).

24. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (P.24).

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (P.25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (P.26).

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States (P.27).

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (P.28).

29. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (P.29).

30. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (P.30).

31. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (P.31).

32. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (P.32).[4]

33. Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (P.33).

34. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal (P.34).

35. Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects (P.35).

36. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (P.36).

37. Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (P.37).

38. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (P.38).

39. Culture of peace (P.39).

40. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (P.40).

41. Oceans and the law of the sea (P.41):

    (a) Oceans and the law of the sea;

    (b) Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

42. University for Peace (P.42).

43. Multilingualism (P.43).

44. Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin (P.44).

45. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (P.45).

46. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (P.46).

47. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (P.47).

48. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict (P.48).

49. Assistance in mine action (P.49).

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[4] This item remains on the agenda of the fifty-fifth session (decision 55/458 of 23 December 2000). Its inclusion in the draft agenda of the fifty-sixth session is subject to any action that the General Assembly may take on it at its fifty-fifth session.

50. Towards global partnerships (P.50).

51. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (P.51).

52. Question of Palestine (P.52).

53. The situation in the Middle East (P.53).

54. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (P.54).

55. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (P.55).

56. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (P.56).

57. The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence (P.57).

58. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (P.58).[5]

59. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (P.59).

60. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (P.60).[4]

61. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (P.61).

62. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.62).

63. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (P.63).

64. Armed israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (P.64).

65. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (P.65).

66. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (P.66).

[5] This item, which has not yet been considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, remains on the agenda of that session (decision 55/458 of 23 December 2000). Its inclusion in the draft agenda of the fifty-sixth session is subject to any action that the Assembly may take on it at its fifty-fifth session.

67. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (P.67).

68. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (P.68).

69. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (P.69).[5]

70. Strengthening of the United Nations system (P.70).[4]

71. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (P.71).[5]

72. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (P.72).[5]

73. Question of Cyprus (P.73).[5]

74. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (P.74).[5]

75. Reduction of military budgets (P.75):

    (a) Reduction of military budgets;

    (b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

76. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (P.76).

77. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (P.77).

78. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (P.78).

79. Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe (P.79).

80. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (P.80).

81. The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (P.81).

82. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (P.82).

83. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (P.83).

84. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (P.84).

85. General and complete disarmament (P.85):

    (a) Notification of nuclear tests;

    (b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof;

    (c) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

    (d) Missiles;

    (e) Preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems;

(f) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda;

(g) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

(h) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

(i) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(j) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(k) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(l) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(m) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(n) Reducing nuclear danger;

(o) Regional disarmament;

(p) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(q) Illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons;

(r) Nuclear disarmament;

(s) Transparency in armaments;

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

(u) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(v) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(w) Small arms.

86. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (P.86):

(a) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(b) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

87. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (P.87):

    (a) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

    (b) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

    (c) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

    (d) Report of the Disarmament Commission.

88. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (P.88)

89. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (P.89).

90. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (P.90).

91. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (P.91).

92. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (P.92).

93. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (P.93).

94. Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements (P.94).

95. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (P.95).

96. Effects of atomic radiation (P.96).

97. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (P.97).

98. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (P.98).

99. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (P.99).

100. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (P.100).[4]

101. Questions relating to information (P.101).

102. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (P.102).

103. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (P.103).

104. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (P.104).

105. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (P.105).

106. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India (P.106).

107. Macroeconomic policy questions (P.107):

(a) Trade and development;

(b) International financial system and development;

(c) Science and technology for development;

(d) External debt crisis and development.

108. Sectoral policy questions (P.108):

(a) Business and development;

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

109. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (P.109):

(a) Women in development;

(b) Human resources development;

(c) High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

(d) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

110. Environment and sustainable development (P.110):

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) International strategy for disaster reduction;

(c) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(g) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005.

111. Operational activities for development (P.111):

(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

112. International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues (P.112).

113. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (P.113).

114. Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic (P.114).

115. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (P.115).

116. Training and research (P.116).

117. Globalization and interdependence (P.117).

118. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (P.118):

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

119. High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development (P.119)

120. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (P.120).

121. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (P.121).

122. Crime prevention and criminal justice (P.122).

123. International drug control (P.123).

124. Advancement of women (P.124).

125. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (P.125).

126. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (P.126).

127. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (P.127).

128. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (P.128).

129. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (P.129).

130. Right of peoples to self-determination (P.130).

131. Human rights questions (P.131):

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

132. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (P.132):

(a) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

133. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (P.133).

134. Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (P.134).

135. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (P.135).

136. Pattern of conferences (P.136).

137. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (P.137).

138. Human resources management (P.138).

139. United Nations common system (P.139).

140. Joint Inspection Unit (P.140).

141. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (P.141).[5]

142. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (P.142).

143. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (P.143).

144. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.144).

145. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (P.145).

146. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (P.146):

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

147. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (P.147).

148. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (P.148).

149. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (P.149).

150. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (P.150).

151. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (P.151):

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

(b) Other activities.

152. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (P.152).[5]

153. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (P.153).

154. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (P.154).

155. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (P.155).

156. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (P.156).

157. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (P.157).[5]

158. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (P.158).

159. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (P.159).[5]

160. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (P.160).[5]

161. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (P.161).

162. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (P.162).

163. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (P.163).[5]

164. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (P.164).[5]

165. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (P.165).[5]

166. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (P.166).

167. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (P.167).[5]

168. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (P.168).

169. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (P.169).

170. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (P.170).

171. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (P.171).

172. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (P.172).

173. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-fourth session (P.173).

174. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-third session (P.174).

175. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (P.175).

176. Establishment of the International Criminal Court (P.176).

177. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (P.177).

178. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (P.178).

179. Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (P.179).

180. Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly (P.180).

181. Administration of justice at the United Nations (P.181).

182. Observer status for the International Development Law Institute in the General Assembly (P.182).

183. Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (P.183).

184. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum (P.184).

185. Observer status for the International Hydrographic Organization in the General Assembly (P.185).

186. Observer status for the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States in the General Assembly (S.1).

187. International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings (S.2).

188. Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected (S.3).

189. Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula (S.4).

IV. Allocation of items

47. The allocation of items described in paragraph 60 below is based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous years. The Secretary-General trusts that delegations will consider allotting items in a manner that will best enhance the effectiveness and the impact of the Assembly's work. In this connection, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which reads as follows:

> "4. Substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting."

The General Committee may also wish to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 3 of annex I to resolution 48/264. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to the relevant paragraphs of resolution 39/88 B and resolution 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1, annexes VII and VIII). Paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 39/88 B reads as follows:

> "5. The Chairmen of the Main Committees should take the initiative, in the light of past experience, to propose the grouping of similar or related items and the holding of a single general debate on them."

Paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 45/45 reads as follows:

> "6. In making recommendations as to how agenda items should be allocated to the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly, the General Committee should ensure the best use of the expertise of the Committees."

In this connection, the Secretary-General also wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to resolution 48/264, which read as follows:

> "2. Agenda items which are of a nature that relates to more than one Main Committee or which do not come within the purview of any Main Committee should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, taking into account the recommendations of the General Committee.
>
> ...
>
> "5. The Main Committees should be encouraged to continue with the review of their respective agendas, taking into account, inter alia, the following:
>
> ...

"(b) Items that cover related matters or issues could be considered in agreed clusters;

...

"(d) The existing broad division of work among the Main Committees should be maintained."

The Secretary-General also wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 24 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

"24. The General Assembly shall take further steps to rationalize and streamline the agenda ... and in particular shall make greater use of clustering, biennialization or triennialization of agenda items. Items that could be considered at a later session shall be identified, taking into account the priorities set by the medium-term plan."

48. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/195 of 17 December 1999, which read as follows:

"2. *Decides also* that, in future, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly will be considered in plenary session after the consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to bring to the attention of all the States Members of the General Committee and General Assembly the criteria and procedures laid down by the General Assembly whenever a request is made by an organization seeking observer status in the General Assembly."

(See also paragraph 45).

49. The following items of the draft agenda have not been considered previously by the General Assembly:

181. Administration of justice at the United Nations (P.181).

182. Observer status for the International Development Law Institute in the General Assembly (P.182).

183. Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (P.183).

184. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum (P.184).

185. Observer status for the International Hydrographic Organization in the General Assembly (P.185).

186. Observer status for the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States in the General Assembly (S.1).

187. International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings (S.2).

188. Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its

twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected (S.3).

The sponsors of the requests for the inclusion of the following items have suggested that they be allocated as follows:

Item 181	Fifth Committee
Item 182	Sixth Committee
Item 183	Plenary meetings
Item 184	Plenary meetings
Item 185	Sixth Committee
Item 186	Sixth Committee
Item 187	Sixth Committee
Item 188	Plenary meetings

50. With regard to *item 10* of the draft agenda (Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization), as at previous sessions, the Secretary-General wishes to make a brief presentation of his annual report [6] as the first item in the morning prior to the opening of the general debate on Monday, 24 September 2001.

51. In connection with *item 12* of the draft agenda (Report of the Economic and Social Council), the Secretary-General proposes that, as in previous years, the various parts of the report should be assigned to the Main Committees in accordance with their respective fields of competence or to plenary meetings, on the understanding that the administrative, programme and budgetary aspects should be dealt with by the Fifth Committee. Bearing that consideration in mind, the Secretary-General recommends the following allocation for the various parts of the report:[7]

Chapter I	Matters calling for action by the General Assembly or brought to its attention	Plenary meetings and Second, Third and Fifth Committees
Chapter II	Special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions	Plenary meetings and Second Committee
Chapter III	High-level segment	Plenary meetings and Second and Third Committees
Chapter IV	Operational activities segment	Plenary meetings and Second and Third Committees

[6] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/56/1).

[7] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/56/3).

Chapter V	Coordination segment	Plenary meetings and Second and Third Committees
Chapter VI	Humanitarian affairs segment	Plenary meetings
Chapter VII	General segment	
Section A	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits	Plenary meetings and Second and Third Committees
Section B	Coordination, programme and other questions	Plenary meetings and Second, Third and Fifth Committees
Section C	Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B	Plenary meetings and Second, Third and Fifth Committees
Section D	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Section E	Regional cooperation	Second Committee
Section F	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan	Second Committee
Section G	Non-governmental organizations	Second Committee
Section H	Economic and environmental questions	Second Committee
Section I	Social and human rights questions	Third Committee

Chapter VIII	Elections, appointments, nominations and confirmations	Plenary meetings
Chapter IX	Organizational matters	Plenary meetings and Second, Third and Fifth Committees

52. With regard to *item 18* of the draft agenda (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples), the General Committee may wish to consider referring to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) chapters of the report of the Special Committee[8] relating to specific Territories; this would again enable the General Assembly to deal in plenary meetings with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

53. With regard to *item 36* of the draft agenda (United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations), the Secretary-General wishes to recall paragraph 8 of resolution 55/23 of 13 November 2000, in which the Assembly decided to devote two days of plenary meetings at the fifty-sixth session, on 3 and 4 December 2001, to the consideration of the item, including consideration of any follow-up measures, and commemoration of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, and encouraged Member States and observers to be represented at the highest possible political level.

54. With regard to *item 56* of the draft agenda (Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)), the Secretary-General wishes to remind the General Committee that at previous sessions the General Assembly has decided to consider this item directly in plenary meetings on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meetings.

55. With regard to *item 73* of the draft agenda (Question of Cyprus), the General Committee will recall that at its forty-second session[9] the General Assembly decided to consider this item directly in plenary meetings, on the understanding that it would, when considering the item, invite the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to meet for the purpose of affording representatives of the Cypriot communities an opportunity to take the floor in the Committee in order to express their views, and that the Assembly would then resume its consideration of the item, taking into account the report of the Committee.

56. In connection with *item 85* of the draft agenda (General and complete disarmament), the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to the fact that some portions of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/56/313), which is to be considered directly in plenary meetings under item 14, deal with the subject matter of this item. The General Committee may therefore wish to recommend that the relevant paragraphs of the

[8] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23).

[9] This item has not been considered since the thirty-seventh session.

report be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 85.

57. With regard to *item 109 (c)* of the draft agenda (Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership), the Secretary-General wishes to recall decision 55/479 of 12 April 2001, by which the Assembly took note of a letter from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the President of the General Assembly (A/55/955). In his letter, the Chairman informed the President that the dates suggested for the high-level dialogue, 17 and 18 September 2001, were acceptable to Member States. The Secretary-General also wishes to recall paragraph 3 of resolution 55/193 of 20 December 2000, in which the General Assembly decided that the high-level dialogue should consist of plenary meetings, ministerial round-table meetings and informal panels, with the participation of non-governmental actors, and that the final outcome of the dialogue would be a summary by the President, to be presented at the closure of the event.

58. In connection with *item 120* of the draft agenda (Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family), the Secretary-General wishes to recall paragraph 8 of resolution 55/57 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly decided that two plenary meetings of the fifty-sixth session should be devoted to volunteering, to coincide with the close of the International Year of Volunteers on 5 December 2001.

59. In connection with *item 124* of the draft agenda (Advancement of women), the Secretary-General wishes to recall paragraph 16 of the annex to resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984 concerning the United Nations Development Fund for Women, which reads as follows:

> "16. Taking into account the advice of the Consultative Committee, the Administrator shall submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme an annual report on the operations, management and budget of the Fund. He shall submit a similar report to the General Assembly, to be referred to the Second Committee for consideration of its technical cooperation aspects and also to the Third Committee."

The General Committee may therefore wish to recommend that the report be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 111 of the draft agenda (Operational activities for development).

60. Subject to changes that may be made by the General Committee in the light of paragraphs 47 to 59 above, the allocation of the items of the draft agenda, as based on previous practice, would be as follows (see para. 50):

Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Finland (P.1).
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (P.2).
3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (P.3):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (P.4).

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (P.5).

6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (P.6).

7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (P.7).

8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (P.8).

9. General debate (P.9).

10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (P.10) (see para. 50).

11. Report of the Security Council (P.11).

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I to VI, chapter VII, sections A to C, and chapters VIII and IX (P.12)[10]

13. Report of the International Court of Justice (P.13).

14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (P.14) (see para. 56).

15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (P.15):

    (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

    (b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;

    (c) Election of a member of the International Court of Justice.

16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (P.16):

    (a) Election of the members of the International Law Commission;

    (b) Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

    (c) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

    (d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (P.17):[11]

    (g) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit;

    (h) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

    (i) Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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[10] The chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council listed below would be referred also to Main Committees as follows (for further details, see para. 51):

(a) Chapters I, VII (sections B and C) and IX ..... Second, Third and Fifth Committees
(b) Chapter II ..... Second Committee
(c) Chapters III to V and VII (section A) ..... Second and Third Committees

[11] For sub-items (a) to (f), see Fifth Committee, item 41.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (P.18) (see para. 52).

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (P.19).

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (P.20):

    (a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

    (b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

    (c) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

    (d) Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development;

    (e) Assistance to the Palestinian people;

    (f) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (P.21).

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (P.22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (P.23).

24. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (P.24).

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (P.25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (P.26).

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States (P.27).

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (P.28).

29. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (P.29).

30. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (P.30).

31. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (P.31).

32. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (P.32).

33. Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (P.33).

34. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal (P.34).

35. Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects (P.35).

36. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (P.36) (see para. 53).

37. Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (P.37).

38. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (P.38).

39. Culture of peace (P.39).

40. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (P.40).

41. Oceans and the law of the sea (P.41):

    (a) Oceans and the law of the sea;

    (b) Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

42. University for Peace (P.42).

43. Multilingualism (P.43).

44. Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin (P.44).

45. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (P.45).

46. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (P.46).

47. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (P.47).

48. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict (P.48).

49. Assistance in mine action (P.49).

50. Towards global partnerships (P.50).

51. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (P.51).

52. Question of Palestine (P.52).

53. The situation in the Middle East (P.53).

54. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (P.54).

55. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (P.55).

56. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (P.56) (see para. 54).

57. The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence (P.57).

58. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (P.58).

59. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (P.59).

60. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (P.60).

61. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (P.61).

62. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.62).

63. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (P.63).

64. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (P.64).

65. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (P.65).

66. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (P.66).

67. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (P.67).

68. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (P.68).

69. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (P.69).

70. Strengthening of the United Nations system (P.70).

71. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (P.71).

72. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (P.72).

73. Question of Cyprus (P.73) (see para. 55).

74. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (P.74).

75. Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula (S.4).

First Committee

1. Reduction of military budgets (P.75):

   (a) Reduction of military budgets;

(b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

2. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (P.76).

3. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (P.77).

4. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (P.78).

5. Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe (P.79).

6. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (P.80).

7. The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (P.81).

8. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (P.82).

9. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (P.83).

10. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (P.84).

11. General and complete disarmament (P.85) (see para. 56):

(a) Notification of nuclear tests;

(b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof;

(c) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

(d) Missiles;

(e) Preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems;

(f) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda;

(g) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

(h) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

(i) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(j) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(k) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(l) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(m) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(n) Reducing nuclear danger;

(o) Regional disarmament;

(p) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(q) Illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons;

(r) Nuclear disarmament;

(s) Transparency in armaments;

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

(u) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(v) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(w) Small arms.

12. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (P.86):

(a) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(b) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

13. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (P.87):

(a) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(b) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

(c) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(d) Report of the Disarmament Commission.

14. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (P.88).

15. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (P.89).

16. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (P.90).

17. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (P.91).

18. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (P.92).

19. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (P.93).

20. Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements (P.94).

21. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (P.95).

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

1. Effects of atomic radiation (P.96).

2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (P.97).

3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (P.98).

4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (P.99).

5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (P.100).

6. Questions relating to information (P.101).

7. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (P.102).

8. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (P.103).

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (P.104).

10. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section D) (P.12) (for further details, see para. 51).

11. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (P.105).

12. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India (P.106).

13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (P.18) (see para. 52).

Second Committee

1. Macroeconomic policy questions (P.107):

   (a) Trade and development;

   (b) International financial system and development;

(c) Science and technology for development;

(d) External debt crisis and development.

2. Sectoral policy questions (P.108):

(a) Business and development;

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

3. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (P.109):

(a) Women in development;

(b) Human resources development;

(c) High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (see para. 57);

(d) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

4. Environment and sustainable development (P.110):

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) International strategy for disaster reduction;

(c) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(g) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005.

5. Operational activities for development (P.111):

(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

6. International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues (P.112).

7. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (P.113).

8. Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic (P.114).

9. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (P.115).

10. Training and research (P.116).

11. Globalization and interdependence (P.117).

12. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (P.118):

    (a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

    (b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

13. High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development (P.119) (see para. 42).

14. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I to V, chapter VII, sections A to C and E to H, and chapter IX) (P.12)[12]

Third Committee

1. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (P.120) (see para. 58).

2. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (P.121).

3. Crime prevention and criminal justice (P.122).

4. International drug control (P.123).

5. Advancement of women (P.124) (see para. 59).

6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (P.125).

7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (P.126).

8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (P.127).

9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (P.128).

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[12] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Third and Fifth Committees, as follows (for further details, see para. 51):

(a) Chapters I, VII (sections B and C) and IX ..... Plenary meetings and Third and Fifth Committees

(b) Chapter II ..... Plenary meetings

(c) Chapters III to V and VII (section A) ..... Plenary meetings and Third Committee

10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (P.129).

11. Right of peoples to self-determination (P.129).

12. Human rights questions (P.131):

    (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

    (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

    (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

    (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

    (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

13. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I and III to V, chapter VII, sections A to C and I, and chapter IX) (P.12).[13]

Fifth Committee

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (P.132):

    (a) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

    (b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (P.133).

3. Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (P.134).

4. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (P.135).

5. Pattern of conferences (P.136).

6. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (P.137).

7. Human resources management (P.138).

8. United Nations common system (P.139).

9. Joint Inspection Unit (P.140)

10. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (P.141).

11. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (P.142).

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[13] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Fifth Committees, as follows (for further details, see para. 51):

(a) Chapters I, VII (sections B and C) and IX ..... Plenary meetings and Second and Fifth Committees

(b) Chapters III to V and VII (section A) ..... Plenary meetings and Second Committee

12. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (P.143).

13. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.144).

14. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (P.145).

15. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (P.146):

    (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

    (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

16. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (P.147).

17. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (P.148).

18. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (P.149).

19. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (P.150).

20. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (P.151):

    (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

    (b) Other activities.

21. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (P.152).

22. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (P.153).

23. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (P.154).

24. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (P.155).

25. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (P.156).

26. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (P.157).

27. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (P.158).

28. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (P.159).

29. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (P.160).

30. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (P.161).

31. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (P.162).

32. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (P.163).

33. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (P.164).

34. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (P.165).

35. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (P.166).

36. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (P.167).

37. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (P.168).

38. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (P.169).

39. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (P.170).

40. Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter I, chapter VII, sections B and C, and chapter IX) (P.12)[14]

41. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (P.17):[15]

    (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

    (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

    (c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

    (d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

    (e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

    (f) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission.

Sixth Committee

1. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (P.171).

2. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (P.172).

3. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-fourth session (P.173).

[14] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Third Committees, as follows (for further details, see para. 51):

Chapters I, VII (sections B and C) and IX ..... Plenary meetings, Second and Third Committees

[15] For sub-items (g) to (i), see "Plenary meetings", item 17.

4. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-third session (P.174).

5. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (P.175).

6. Establishment of the International Criminal Court (P.176).

7. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (P.177).

8. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (P.178).

9. Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (P.179).

10. Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly (P.180).

United Nations A/BUR/56/1/Add.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
General Committee

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The following should be added to the memorandum by the Secretary-General of 30 August 2001 (A/BUR/56/1):

1. After paragraph 5, *insert*

5 bis. The Secretary-General wishes also to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 20 of the annex to resolution 55/285 of 7 September 2001, which reads as follows:

"20. In order to enhance the capacity of the General Committee to assist the President of the General Assembly in the conduct of the business of the Assembly and to improve continuity between its different sessions, at the outset of each session, each Vice-President of the Assembly shall designate a liaison person for the duration of the session. This designation may be made informally, without any amendment to rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, by means of a letter to its President".

2. After paragraph 29, *insert*

29 bis. In this connection, the General Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the annex to decision 55/488 of 7 September 2001, which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly, while reaffirming paragraph 28 of annex VI to its Rules of Procedure, reiterates that the terms 'takes note of' and 'notes' are neutral terms that constitute neither approval nor disapproval".

3. After paragraph 31, *insert*

31 bis. The need to take concrete action to implement paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241, including by requesting more integrated reports, was reiterated in paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 55/285.

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31 ter. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 17 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which reads as follows:

"17. Member States and entities of the United Nations system should make a serious effort to submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines."

4. After paragraph 44, *insert*

44 bis. Also in this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraphs 3 to 6 and 8 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which read as follows:

"3. All cooperation items shall be clustered under an item entitled 'Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations' and individual cooperation items shall become sub-items of that item.

4. Practical measures to implement the clustering shall be taken in September 2001 by the General Assembly in conjunction with the adoption of the agenda of its fifty-sixth session.

5. The cooperation items shall be biennialized, starting at the fifty-seventh session, and shall appear in the agenda of the Assembly thereafter at odd-numbered sessions.

6. Pursuant to the above decision, the biennialization shall be reflected in each related resolution, starting at the fifty-sixth session, as appropriate.

...

8. Any resolution under individual sub-items shall remain separate."

44 ter. Furthermore, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraphs 10 and 11 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which read as follows:

"10. The following items shall be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session and thereafter biennially:

(a) 'Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic';

(b) 'Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies';

(c) 'United Nations reform: measures and proposals';

(d) 'The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti';

(e) 'Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields'.

11. The following item shall continue to be considered biennially, at even-numbered sessions: 'Elimination of coercive measures as a means of political and economic compulsion'."

5. In paragraph 46:

(a) After item 20, *insert*

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

(e) Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

(f) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

(g) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States.

(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Present items 21 through 32 will be deleted and subsequent items will be renumbered accordingly;

(b) After item 189, *insert*

190. Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly (A/55/241 and decision 55/402 B of 7 September 2001).

6. After paragraph 47, *insert*

47 bis. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 12 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which reads as follows:

"12. The following item shall be considered by the Third Committee starting at the fifty-sixth session: 'Implementation of the outcome of the World

Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly'."

7. In paragraph 49:

(a) After item 188, *insert*

190. Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly (A/55/241 and decision 55/402 B of 7 September 2001).

(b) After entry "Item 188 Plenary meetings", *insert*

Item 190 Sixth Committee

8. After paragraph 50, *insert*

50 bis. Also with regard to *item 10* of the draft agenda, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 14 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which reads as follows:

"14. As regards implementation of paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly, after consideration by the Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, shall inform the Assembly of his assessment of the debate on the report in order for the Assembly to determine the need for further action, as provided for in paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241."

9. After paragraph 52, *insert*

52 bis. With regard to *item 21* of the draft agenda (Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations), the Secretary-General wishes to recall paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 55/285, in which the Assembly decided that a joint debate shall be held on the cooperation item, during which all or some aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations may be addressed.

10. In paragraph 60:

(a) **Plenary meetings**

(i) After item 20, *insert*

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

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(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Present items 21 through 32 will be deleted and subsequent items will be renumbered accordingly;

(ii) After item 37, *delete*

38. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (P.38).

(b) **Third Committee**

After item 13, *insert*

14. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (P.38).

United Nations A/BUR/56/1/Add.1*

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
General Committee

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The following should be added to the memorandum by the Secretary-General of 30 August 2001 (A/BUR/56/1):

1. After paragraph 5, *insert*

5 bis. The Secretary-General wishes also to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 20 of the annex to resolution 55/285 of 7 September 2001, which reads as follows:

"20. In order to enhance the capacity of the General Committee to assist the President of the General Assembly in the conduct of the business of the Assembly and to improve continuity between its different sessions, at the outset of each session, each Vice-President of the Assembly shall designate a liaison person for the duration of the session. This designation may be made informally, without any amendment to rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, by means of a letter to its President".

2. After paragraph 29, *insert*

29 bis. In this connection, the General Committee may also wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the annex to decision 55/488 of 7 September 2001, which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly, while reaffirming paragraph 28 of annex VI to its Rules of Procedure, reiterates that the terms 'takes note of' and 'notes' are neutral terms that constitute neither approval nor disapproval".

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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3. After paragraph 31, *insert*

31 bis. The need to take concrete action to implement paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241, including by requesting more integrated reports, was reiterated in paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 55/285.

31 ter. The General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 17 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which reads as follows:

"17. Member States and entities of the United Nations system should make a serious effort to submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines."

4. In paragraph 43, *insert*

(c) Assembly resolution 55/285 of 7 September 2001;

(d) Assembly decision 55/402 B of 7 September 2001.

5. After paragraph 44, *insert*

44 bis. Also in this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraphs 3 to 6 and 8 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which read as follows:

"3. All cooperation items shall be clustered under an item entitled 'Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations' and individual cooperation items shall become sub-items of that item.

4. Practical measures to implement the clustering shall be taken in September 2001 by the General Assembly in conjunction with the adoption of the agenda of its fifty-sixth session.

5. The cooperation items shall be biennialized, starting at the fifty-seventh session, and shall appear in the agenda of the Assembly thereafter at odd-numbered sessions.

6. Pursuant to the above decision, the biennialization shall be reflected in each related resolution, starting at the fifty-sixth session, as appropriate.

...

8. Any resolution under individual sub-items shall remain separate."

44 ter. Furthermore, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraphs 10 and 11 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which read as follows:

"10. The following items shall be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session and thereafter biennially:

(a) 'Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic';

(b) 'Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies';

(c) 'United Nations reform: measures and proposals';

(d) 'The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti';

(e) 'Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields'.

11. The following item shall continue to be considered biennially, at even-numbered sessions: 'Elimination of coercive measures as a means of political and economic compulsion'."

6. In paragraph 46:

(a) After item 20, *insert*

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

(e) Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

(f) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

(g) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States.

(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Present items 21 through 32 will be deleted and subsequent items will be renumbered accordingly;

(b) After item 189, *insert*

190. Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly (A/55/241 and decision 55/402 B of 7 September 2001).

7. After paragraph 47, *insert*

47 bis. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 12 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which reads as follows:

"12. The following item shall be considered by the Third Committee starting at the fifty-sixth session: 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly'."

8. In paragraph 49:

(a) After item 188, *insert*

190. Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly (A/55/241 and decision 55/402 B of 7 September 2001).

(b) After entry "Item 188 Plenary meetings", *insert*

Item 190 Sixth Committee

9. After paragraph 50, *insert*

50 bis. Also with regard to *item 10* of the draft agenda, the General Committee may wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 14 of the annex to resolution 55/285, which reads as follows:

"14. As regards implementation of paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly, after consideration by the Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, shall inform the Assembly of his assessment of the debate on the report in order for the Assembly to determine the need for further action, as provided for in paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241."

10. After paragraph 52, *insert*

52 bis. With regard to *item 21* of the draft agenda (Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations), the Secretary-General wishes to recall paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 55/285, in which the Assembly decided that a joint debate shall be held on the cooperation item, during which all or some aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations may be addressed.

11. In paragraph 60:

(a) **Plenary meetings**

(i) After item 20, *insert*

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

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(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Present items 21 through 32 will be deleted and subsequent items will be renumbered accordingly;

(ii) After item 37, *delete*

38. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (P.38).

Subsequent items will be renumbered accordingly.

(b) **Third Committee**

After item 13, *insert*

14. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (P.38).